

REVIVAL IN THE HOME

By Dr. Hal Webb, Evangelist

"Therefore shall ye lay up these my words in your heart and in your soul, and bind them for a sign upon your hand, that they may be as frontlets between your eyes. And ye shall teach them your children, speaking of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, when thou liest down, and when thou riseth up. Deut. 11:18-19.

Have you ever heard someone say, "that would be heaven on earth." This is usually said about an experience "that is out of this world." After the above verses God likens a great Christian home to be *"as the days of heaven upon the earth."* Deut. 11:21. It is a wonderful promise but takes much work by parents to make it possible. In Deut 10:12&13 the requirements for a great Christian home are very clear.

1. To fear the Lord.
2. To walk in all His ways.
3. To love Him.
4. To serve Him.
5. To Keep His Commandments.

God's presence must be taught, and sought, and evidenced daily, if you are going to have a great Christian home. I am sure most of us have fallen short in keeping our home involved in such eternal values. Please let me remind you of some of the things you must do to have a great Godly home. **(1). Make Your Family A Priority:** *"Seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you."* Matt. 6:33. Remember your family is the only thing you can take to Heaven with you. It is your greatest earthly possession, a circle of blessing that can be yours for eternity. As your family goes so goes your church, and nation. Many married folks refuse to make their family their priority. They give time, energy, effort, and resources,

to their career, financial pursuits, community involvement's, pleasures, and what is left goes to the family. Remember if you do not have a visible Godly home you have failed God and your family. **(2). Follow God's Order:** *"For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church;"* Eph. 5:23. *"Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord."* Eph. 5:22. *"Children obey your parents in the Lord; for this is right."* Eph. 6:1. If you follow God's blue print, and these members willingly obey the Bible, you are guaranteed the foundation of your home will stand and be great. Dad must lead, and mother must follow, and children must be led to obey. Don't miss the blessings God has for your family. **(3). Fence Out The World:** *"Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him."* 1 John 2:15. Fences should keep in what should not get out, and keep out that which should not get in. The job of parents is to protect the family from sin, Satan, and our worldly society. You must stop watching evil programing on TV, and bad radio and computer pollution, and even ration printed materials. You can be sure the Devil will try to reach and warp your kids with many evil techniques. Be on your guard to preserve the good within, and control the bad from without. Rebuke Satan, and command him to leave your family alone. He must not be allowed to spoil your dearest possession, your Godly home. **(4). Teach Godly Habits.** *"My son, hear the instruction of thy father, and forsake not the law of thy mother;"* Prov. 1:8. Our eternal God expects you to teach your kids how to live a Godly life. Don't rely on a Christian school, or even church, to be the sole instructors of your family. The Bible instructs you to teach your children to live by the Bible. Not just tell them by explaining the truth, but show them by your life. That is crucial. You cannot expect them to live by Bible rules if you yourself are guilty of

spiritual disobedience. Remember, *"Train up a child in the way he should go; and when he is old, he will not depart from it."* Prov. 22:6. You cannot raise a Godly family without taking time to teach life, and how to live it successfully. **(5). Maintain Family Worship:**

"He that followeth after righteousness and mercy findeth life, righteousness, and honor."

Prov. 21:21. Most of you reading this message fail by not having devotions at your house. You have time for TV, time for shopping, for sports and hobbies, but seem to be too busy to meet as a family with God. Daily devotions as a family is one of the greatest gifts you can give to family memories, and daily living. Nothing is more important than a daily gathering at home, to read the Word and talk to God. You must communicate your love for God before your children at home. Not just a boring, mechanical habit, but daily fresh encounter with God. Now get with it, keep at it, and watch spirituality grow in your home.

(6). Create A Loving Atmosphere: *"Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself."* Matt. 22:37-39. Notice we are to love others as we love ourselves. Of all the places you should manifest love, our home is a crucial one. A loving home means we all love God together, and then love each other as God loves us. I find God's love to be unconditional, unselfish, and unending. Our kids must know that even when they fail us, and they all will, they will still be loved by us. That's the way our heavenly Father loves all His children. Beware bitterness, nagging, and yelling, and snuggle up, forgive, and be the harmonious family God wants you to be. **(7). Resolve Family Conflicts:**

"Looking diligently lest any man fail of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up trouble you, and thereby many be defiled." Heb. 12:15. In

family life time doesn't heal wounds, conflicts occur quickly because we live so close together. Words, attitudes, reactions, and disappointments can quickly cause hurts that can develop into roots of bitterness. Take personal responsibility for your adult failures in marriage, and family relationships. Wounds must be cleansed before they can be healed.

"Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much." James 5:16 Use nine words regularly; "I was wrong"; "Please forgive me"; and "I forgive you". **(8). Develop Biblical Values:**

"But continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned them.; And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus." II Tim. 3:14&15. You must work to offset worldly values which are no value at all. Stop and recall the ones you were raised on, and pass them along to your children. Values of life, morality, modesty, decency, honesty, must be taught in the home. Even a child needs to learn that which God considers important. Bible values faithfully taught at home will stay with them through life. They will offset the traps and the evil temptations we all face during our lifetime. Kids must be taught to be different from the sin enslaved world around them. **(9). Serve God Together:**

"Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that He will send forth laborers into his harvest." Matt. 9:38. Ministerial, Evangelistic and Missionary fields are all running short on volunteers for service. In my youth it was taught as best of all, to work toward being called by God to full time service. Most of you reading this have already missed raising your children to be a full time servant of God. Be very faithful in your church attendance together as a family, and with consistent Christian family living. Your home can stir revival beginning today.